

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2122

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EAID UR SO

SUBJ: SOMALIA HITS OUT AT FOREIGN MEDIA SPECULATION ON SOVIET
FRIENDSHIP TREATY

REF: MOGADISCIO 1171

1. JULY 24 SOMALI NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY SONNA PUBLISHED "PRESS
RELEASE" ISSUED BY MIN INFORMATION BITTERLY ATTACKING FOREIGN
PRESS AND RADIO COMMENTARY ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN SOMALIA.

2. "PRESS RELEASE" SAYS QUOTE IMPERIALIST MASS MEDIA UNQUOTE
THROUGH RADIOS, NEWS AGENCIES AND NEWSPAPERS HAVE BEEN SPREADING
FALSE PROPAGANDA AGAINST GSDR AND MISINTERPRETING SOMALIA'S
FRIENDSHIP WITH SOCIALIST COUNTRIES IN AN ATTEMPT TO CREATE DIS-
CORD BETWEEN SOMALIA AND ITS AFRICAN NEIGHBORS. AIM OF IM-
PERIALIST PROPAGANDA IS ALSO TO:

-- IMPEDE PROGRESS OF BOTH ADVANCED SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AS
WELL AS LDC'S

-- FRUSTRATE SOMALIA'S RESOLVE TO SOLVE ITS TERRITORIAL DIS-

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PUTE WITH NEIGHBORING STATES IN A QUOTE PEACEFUL, BROTHERLY AND

AFRICAN WAY UNQUOTE

-- SABOTAGE SOMALIA'S FRIENDSHIP WITH SOCIALIST COUNTRIES --
WITH USSR, CHINA, KOREA, CUBA, ETC.

3. "PRESS RELEASE" SAYS SO-CALLED SOVIET AIR AND SEA BASES IN SOMALIA ARE HALLUCINATION OF NEO-COLONIALIST MEDIA, THAT SOVIET MILITARY AID IS FOR DEFENSE OF SOMALI TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND FOR THE DEFENSE OF JUST AFRICAN CAUSES. AIM OF IMPERIALISTS, ON OTHER HAND, IS TO INCITE WARS ON AFRICAN CONTINENT IN ORDER TO SELL ARMS TO AFRICAN NATIONS.

4. "PRESS RELEASE" LISTS CONTRADICTIONS IN FOREIGN MEDIA NUMBERS GAME DESCRIBING SOMALI MIG INVENTORY, AND SAYS THOSE SHOW THAT IMPERIALIST MEDIA FORGETS ITS OLD LIES WHILE INVENTING NEW ONES.

5. COMMENT: WE DO NOT RPT NOT KNOW WHICH MEDIA REPORTS GSDR IS REACTING TO IN PARTICULAR BUT RECENT BBC AFRICAN SERVICE SPECULATION ON ARMS BALANCE IN HORN AND EXTENT TO WHICH SOVIET ARMS DELIVERIES -- PARTICULARLY MIG-21'S -- MAY HAVE UPSET THAT BALANCE IS THE SORT OF COMMENT THE GSDR PROBABLY HAS IN MIND. (WE KNOW BBC SPECULATION ON THE BEHIND-THE-SCENES MANEUVERING AT THE RECENT OAU SUMMIT AT MOGADISCIO DID ANNOY THE GSDR: SOMALI AMBASSADOR TO US TOLD OUR PAO JULY 4 THAT VOA HAD DONE GOOD JOB REPORTING FACTS WHILE BBC HAD INDULGED IN BASELESS SPECULATION.)

6. FACTS OF COURSE ARE IN SHORT SUPPLY IN MOGADISCIO REGARDING DETAILS OF SOVIET FRIENDSHIP TREATY. FOREIGN MEDIA EFFORTS TO FILL IN GAPS AS WELL AS DRAW STRATEGIC CONCLUSIONS UNDERCUTS GSDR ATTEMPTS TO PUT A BLAND FACE ON TREATY WHILE CONTINUING TO REMAIN SILENT ON TEXT OR DETAILS. "PRESS RELEASE" SHOWS HOW PAINFULLY SENSITIVE GSDR IS ABOUT SPECULATION REGARDING FRIENDSHIP TREATY, NEW ARMAMENTS AND THEIR SIGNIFICANCE FOR HORN OF AFRICA. LOCAL RUMORS THAT SOVIET TREATY INVOLVES HUNDRED MILLION RUBLES DEBT FORGIVENESS BY MOSCOW (MOGADISCIO 1171) WAY OF BLUNTING LOCAL CRITICISM ABOUT TREATY BUT GSDR HAS NOT YET FOUND WAY TO SATISFY FOREIGN MEDIA, ITS AFRICAN NEIGHBORS, OR INDEED LOCAL DIPLOMATIC OBSERVERS.

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